

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF PORTER)

)SS: IN THE PORTER SUPERIOR COURT
CONTINUOUS TERM, 2019

STATE OF INDIANA

CAUSE NO. 64D01-1903-MD-2107

VS.

CONNOR RALLAND KERNER

156 Kinsale
Valparaiso, IN 46385
DOB: 3-31-2001
SSN: REDACTION #1

INFORMATION

COUNT I
[MURDER]
I.C. 35-42-1-1

Detective Brian Dziedzinski swears under the penalties of perjury as specified by I.C. 35-44.1-2-1 that the following representation is true: that on or about February 25, 2019 in the County of Porter, State of Indiana, **CONNOR RALLAND KERNER** did knowingly or intentionally kill Thomas Grill, then and there being contrary to the form of the statute and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

COUNT II
[MURDER]
I.C. 35-42-1-1

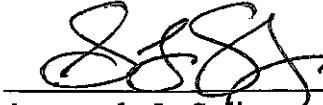
Detective Brian Dziedzinski swears under the penalties of perjury as specified by I.C. 35-44.1-2-1 that the following representation is true: that on or about February 25, 2019 in the County of Porter, State of Indiana **CONNOR RALLAND KERNER** did knowingly or intentionally kill Molley Lanham, then and there being contrary to the form of the statute and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.



4114

Detective Brian Dziedzinski

Approved by me this 4th day of March, 2019



Armando L. Salinas, Jr., 25082-45
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STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE PORTER SUPERIOR COURT
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CONNOR RALLAND KERNER

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

Comes now Brian Dziedzinski, being first duly sworn upon my oath, depose and say as follows:

I am employed as a detective with the Porter County Sheriff's Department and have held such position throughout this investigation.

On 3/2/2019, at approximately 0800 hours, I learned from Cedar Lake detective Carl Brittingham that an unidentified persons arrived at the Cedar Lake Police Department on 3/1/2019, to inform them Conor Kerner killed Thomas Grill and Molley Lanham. The 2 anonymous witnesses advised that they would not identify themselves to Cedar Lake PD. One of the anonymous witnessses identified the approximate location of the vehicle and bodies.

Through the Porter County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) investigation it was learned that anonymous witness was (REDACTION #2) (DOB: REDACTION #3), and hereby referred to as Confidential Informant ("CI"). On 3/2/2019, at approximately 0815 hours, I spoke with C.I.'s father (REDACTION #4) via telephone, he advised that C.I. and he would come to station to make a statement. At approximately 0920 hours, I spoke with C.I. in PCSD Detective Bureau Conference Room. (The following is a summary of the audio/video recorded statement and not verbatim.)

C.I. stated that on Monday 2/25/2019, he/she was at Connor Kerner's home (156 Kinsale) from approximate 7 pm – 1030 pm. He/she advised that he/she was alone with Kerner at the residence, due to his mother being in Detroit. He/she advised that Connor was visibly upset. C.I. asked what was wrong. Conner replied that he had done something "really bad". He/she asked him to specify, to which he replied "I killed someone and I killed an innocent girl". C.I. advised that Connor said that the people he killed were "Thomas Grill" and his girlfriend "Molly". C.I. advised that he/she did not know who these people were. C.I. advised that he/she believed Conner to be joking and they moved on to other unrelated topics.

C.I. advised later that night (2/25/2019), he/she observed a missing persons report (social media) and observed that Thomas Grill and Molley Lanham were missing. At that time he/she knew what Kerner was saying was real. C.I. advised

that he/she texted Kerner a picture of the missing person's report and he replied "Jesus".

C.I. advised that he/she was also present for when other people were texting Kerner asking questions about Thomas Grill, because he was supposed to go to Kerner's residence. He/she advised that Kerner provided them with misinformation.

C.I. advised that on Thursday 2/28/2019, Connor told C.I. that if he/she told anyone that he did this (the murder), he would kill him/her (C.I.) and him/her family. Kerner told C.I. all the details of before and after the murder. C.I. provided the following information that Kerner told him/her directly pertaining to the murder of Thomas Grill and Molly Lanham:

Kerner told C.I. that the murder happened in the garage of his grandparent's home located at 249 W 700 S, Hebron, Porter County, Indiana, while they were out of town. Kerner said that Thomas Grill was coming to his (Kerner's) grandparent's residence for a drug deal. Kerner advised that Grill's girlfriend drove them in a black Honda Civic, due to Grill's license being suspended.

Kerner stated that on 2/25/2019, Grill tried to rob Kerner. He/she advised that Kerner stated that when Grill turned around, he shot at Grill. Kerner advised that he missed twice and eventually hit Grill with a shot. Grill fell to the ground and was begging for his life. Kerner advised that he panicked due to being out of bullets in the gun. Kerner then beat him with a pipe wrench until he died.

Kerner advised that he then went outside to the Civic where Molley was located and had her come into the garage. She complied, Kerner stated that he showed Molley, Thomas Grill's body and informed her that he was going to let her go, but if she told, he would kill her. Kerner advised that when she turned to leave the garage, Kerner shot her in the head, killing her.

Kerner advised that at approximate midnight on the night of the murder, he drove the Honda Civic into his grandparent's garage and loaded the deceased bodies of Molley Lanham and Thomas Grill into the trunk.

Kerner advised that at approximately midnight, he drove the car containing the bodies approximately 2 miles away. C.I. advised that Kerner showed him/her the general area of where the vehicle contains the bodies was located. He/she stated that it was off of 600 S about 1-3 miles away from his grandparent's home. Kerner told him/her that he loaded the car with 3 propane cylinders and 4 bottles of "tiki" fluid and other types of flammable substances. He then set the car and bodies on fire. Kerner's plan was to rent a U-haul truck later and somehow get the car in it and dump it in the Mississippi river.

Kerner advised that he walked through the woods back to his grandparents home after he lit the car on fire. Kerner told C.I. that he had done this before and knew how to cover up a murder and get away with it.

On 3/2/2019, Detective Wiseman and this investigator interviewed Gerald and Christy Dye, reference this case. (The following is a summary of the audio recorded statement and is not verbatim.) Gerald Dye stated that he and his wife were in Albuquerque, NM from 2/21/2019 - 2/26/2019.

Gerald advised that the Honda CRV and motorcycle that were currently in the garage, had stayed at the residence in the garage while they were out of town. Gerald advised that Connor Kerner and his mother Roxann took care of their dog while they were out of town. Roxann and Connor would have a key to the residence.

Gerald advised that he has not done any home repairs in the past few months and definitely not anything recent. Gerald advised that he painted the garage last fall. They advised that they own multiple sizes of propane tanks, to include large tanks, small thick tanks, and possibly a long skinny tank for his tailgate grill. Gerald advised that he owns multiple wrenches, to include approximately 3 wrenches that are approximately 1' - 18" long. Gerald and Christy Dye advised that they have paint solvents and other chemicals in the garage. I asked upon their return home, had they noticed anything missing or out of place/damaged. Gerald advised "no" and that everything was locked up and he didn't notice anything. He also advised there were 3 firearms in the home.

They were then asked to leave for the search warrant to be executed. Approximately 20 minutes after they left, Gerald returned advising that some of his statement was untruthful. Gerald advised now that upon arriving home he observed a hole in the garage wall by the railing (near entrance to residence). He advised that his wife and him repaired the hole, but at the time was unsure if it was a bullet hole. He advised that upon his arrival from vacation, the hole appeared to have been patched poorly. He fixed that hole further.

Gerald advised that any fresh paint in the garage would have been done by him after returning from vacation. Gerald advised that Connor painted what seemed to be random spots on the wall/garage wall. Gerald advised that he painted over those with the correct color of paint today.

Gerald advised that upon their arrival home from vacation they noticed that the garage floor had been all cleaned up with something. He also observed what appeared to be bullet holes through the bumper of the CRV and his motorcycle seat that were not present prior to him leaving for vacation. Gerald advised that he continue to check the garage and observed that his 9mm was missing. He advised he left it on the cooler in garage. It was in a case when he left for vacation. The gun, two magazines and cleaning supplies for the gun were all missing.

Gerald advised that on Tuesday 2/26/2019, after returning and seeing what he saw in the garage, he called and asked Connor if he had his CK 9mm. Connor stated that he did have the 9mm at the 156 Kinsale address. Gerald immediately left and retrieved it, securing it in his (Gerald's) bedroom closet. Gerald asked Connor why he took the gun and Connor replied he was going to do some target shooting. Gerald stated upon retrieving the gun, it was noticeably lighter. He advised he believed that rounds were missing from the magazine. He advised that the magazine was full prior to going on vacation. Gerald was concerned that this firearm was used in this incident. Connor later told Gerald that he wanted to target shoot and mishandled the gun and accidentally fired a shot in the garage.

Gerald advised that he observed a wrench in the garage (one that appears to have stain/hair). He advised he has not touched it since returning from vacation. Prior to that he used it for working on his motorcycle.

Gerald advised that he lied initially because he was scared when we told him what we were investigating. He advised he was broken hearted. He then realized he had to tell police what he knew.

On or about March 2, 2019, I was informed that a vehicle matching the identifying information to the 2012 Black Honda was discovered in a wooded area located East of 550 S and 250 W in Porter County, Indiana and had been burned. Investigators executed a search warrant of the Honda Civic and discovered two heavily burnt bodies, skull fractures to one and an apparent gunshot wound to the head of the other, and propane cylinders located inside the vehicle as well. Investigators believe the two bodies are that of Thomas Grill and Molley Lanham.

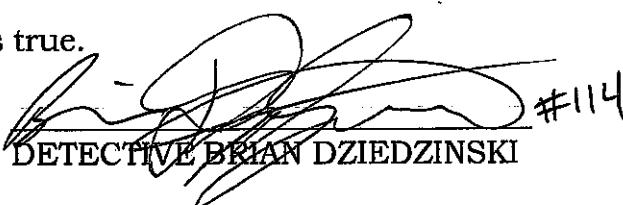
In accordance with I.C. 35-44.1-2-1, I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the forgoing representation(s) is (are) true.

I believe Cedar Lake Detective Carl Brittingham, Det. Wiseman, C.I., Gerald Dye, Christy Dye, and other law enforcement agents are credible and reliable because they spoke of matters within their own personal knowledge, and has been confirmed and corroborated by other evidence in this case.

By reason of the above, I have cause to request the issuance of an arrest warrant for Conor Ralland Kerner for Murder.

Futher your affiant sayeth not.

I have read the above and it is true.



#114

DETECTIVE BRIAN DZIEDZINSKI

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Deputy Prosecutor this ^{4th} day of
March 2019.



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